

La Crescent Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes
La Crescent Chamber of Commerce and Tourism/Keep Company Co-Working Space
111 S Walnut Street, Suite B
March 4, 2026

1. Call to Order: Chair Sarah DeLacy called meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Roll Call: Members Present: Sarah DeLacy Chair, Troy Nolop, Honor DiDonato, Colin Luz, Lori Kadlec, Allen Voss and ex-officio City Council Member Cherryl Jostad

Members Absent – Brett Kemmer (excused)

Staff Present - Larry Kirch, Community Development Director
4. Approval of Agenda: Allen Voss, made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Honor DiDonato, the motion carried unanimously.
5. Approval of December 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Troy Nolop to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2025 meeting as presented, seconded by Colin Luz, the motion carried unanimously.
6. Election of Officers for 2026 – Chair and Vice Chair
7. Discussion Items
 - a. Walnut Street Project Update – Larry stated that WHKS is presenting the final plans at the next City Council meeting. The Environmental Assessment (EA) is being hampered by the delay in getting a license to prepare a Phase 1 Archaeology Study from the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA). That process is being held up by the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC). Larry submitted the application form to MIAC on December 12th (as well as the OSA) and has been emailing monthly and calling the offices to learn if MIAC has comments on a license application. There has been no response. There is a cataloged burial in the project boundary at the south end of the project. The EA is essentially completed pending the Phase 1 Archaeology Study. The project cannot proceed until the EA is finalized. The Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center (MVAC) at UW-La Crosse is contracted to complete a Phase 1 Archaeology assessment.
 - b. Root River Trail Grant and Funding Requests – Larry submitted the federal BUILD Grant in February. There were over 20 letters of support. That project requests funds for the entire 18-mile corridor for design, permits, environmental assessment, and public/agency engagement. We will find out in June if we got funded. Larry is also submitting a state LCCMR grant for the first 6 miles from La Crescent to Hokah. Larry also drafted a bill for Representative Davids and Senator Miller for a “stand-alone” funding bill and Larry is also going to submit a Congressionally Designated Spending project through our U.S. Senators and Congressman.

- c. Railroad Crossing Safety Grant – The city received a grant and has been waiting on the Federal Railroad Administration to finalize the grant agreement. This will be a study of the three rail crossings in La Crescent and the crossing south of town to the industrial area. The city will issue a Request for Qualifications to hire a consulting firm to conduct the study.
 - d. Main Street Program Initiative – There was a recent conference call with area Chamber directors to discuss a county-wide main street approach, information sharing and lunch and learn event coordination. Those on the call decided to talk periodically on coordinating events and programming. The Root River Trail Towns organization collaborates on marketing the Root River State Trail and the Harmony-Preston Valley State trail.
 - e. Keep Company Coworking Space Agreement – The agreement has been finalized.
 - f. USA Cycling Gravel National Championships – The event will be held on Saturday, September 12th. The event start/finish line will be moved to the Ice Arena – Abnet Field Park. The Local Organizing Committee is beginning its work and committee work already. There are six subcommittees this year that meet then there are monthly LOC meetings. The USA Cycling team will be in La Crescent in early May to finalize the course. As notes, the course will change so that it will route through Houston, MN.
8. Reports
- a Updated Project List/Workplan - Larry briefly went through the Workplan.
 - Phase 4 Wagon Wheel – The city is waiting for the City of La Crosse to approve the maintenance agreement between the two cities for the maintenance of the bridge once the project is complete. Project is now expected to start in 2027.
 - Walnut Street – See above.
 - Root River Trail Extension- See above.
 - Overlook Plaza – There is no movement and we have to decide whether to continue with the Little Eagle Arts Center in Baraboo, WI or reissue a new Call to Artists.
 - No movement on having a meeting with the current owners of Springbrook Village (now known as Bay Harbor of La Crescent).
 - b Member Reports –Larry mentioned that the city applied for a Drifty Award for the Pine Creek Restoration project. This is a new award in the region by the organization that created the Emmy award winning movie Secrets of the Driftless. Larry noted that his hours are now at 10 hours per week rather than the 20 that he has been doing for the last three years.

Troy let the group know that the 31 S. Walnut project is completed and that Edward Jones was moving in. Both residential units are rented as well. Troy mentioned that the office of Cannabis Management came to his brother's liquor store and destroyed some products with bleach and also sealed off the refrigerated products. There was not much of an explanation or the ability to place all the product in a locked space until a further explanation could be given. Troy has purchased the vacant lot on N. 4th Street that was owned by Dick Weiser and is working on a project.

Cherryl mentioned that the city has made an offer to hire a new City Administrator and they will start in mid-April. Cassandra Hanan is currently the Vernon County, Wisconsin Coordinator. Information about the applicants is in the council agenda packet. One applicant did not show for the interview. Cherryl let the group know that there will be five trolley visits on the five Saturdays in October.

Lori mentioned that the coffee shop will open as the Groovy Grind. The owner has two other coffee shops in the La Crosse area.

Honor mentioned the coloring contest and also mentioned a gravel bike race in May, starting in La Crescent that is part of the Wisconsin Off Road Racing Series.

Sarah let everyone know that there is a groundbreaking for the Crucifixion school/church day care project and will pass the information on to the group.

9. Next Meeting – April 8th, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

10. Adjourn: Lori Kadlec made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Troy Nolop, the motion carried unanimously. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Larry Kirch